

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ORM-02

DHA-02 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 CU-04 TRSE-00 /087 W

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R 121208Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO AMCONSUL KARACHI PK

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE

RUQMODAMEMBASSY DOHA MUSCAT 377

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PK

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON ENGLAND

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IN

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN SAUDI ARABIA

SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 3227

UNCLAS MANAMA 930

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS :8ELAB, PK, BA

SUBJECT : THE IMPACT OF PAKISTANI EMIGRATION

REF : KARACHI A-23, DATED APRIL 23, 1976

1. THE RECENT VISIT TO BAHRAIN OF PAKISTANI MINISTER FOR ISLAMIC AFFAIRS, WAQF AND OVERSEAS PAKISTANIS, MAULANA KAUSUR NIAZI, PROVIDED SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCUSS THE NUMBERS AND IMPACT OF PAKISTANIS IN BAHRAIN.

2. VISUAL EVIDENCE IN THE MANAMA SUQ, OBSERVATION OF CONSTRUCTION GANGS HAVE CONFIRMED TREND, WHICH APPEARS INCREASINGLY RAPID, TOWARD SOUTH ASIANIZATION OF BAHRAINI LABOR FORCE. IN JANUARY WE WERE TOLD THAT BAHRAINIS NOW CONSTITUTE UNCLASSIFIED

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FORTY PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE WITH BALANCE LARGELY INDIAN AND

PAKISTANI WITH SOME EAST ASIANS MAKING UP THE REMAINDER (KOREA, PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND PRINCIPALLY). (SEE MANAMA 32 NOTAL).

3. WHEN WE INQUIRED OF PAKISTANI EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND BAHRAINI GOVERNMENT OFFICERS CONCERNED (LABOR AND IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENTS), ALL HAD OBVIOUSLY DONE THEIR HOMEWORK IN ANTICIPATION OF THE MINISTER'S ARRIVAL. ALL SOURCES STATED THAT THERE ARE NOW 18,200 PAKISTANIS IN BAHRAIN. THIS WOULD BE ABOUT HALF AGAIN AS MANY AS ESTIMATE IN REFAIR. INTERESTINGLY WE ARE TOLD BY GOB OFFICIALS THAT THERE ARE NOW JUST OVER 24,000 INDIANS IN BAHRAIN. WHILE THESE NUMBERS ARE SMALL BY SUBCONTINENTAL STANDARDS, THEY CONSTITUTE HERE, FOR EXAMPLE, ALMOST HALF THE LABOR FORCE.

4. THE CULTURAL IMPACT, WHICH HAS BEEN SLOW TO DEVELOP, IS NOW PROCEEDING APACE -- URDU, HINDI AND MALYALEE MOVIES APPEAR TO BE DISPLACING ARABIC ONES. SOUTH ASIAN RESTAURANTS AND EVEN PAN SHOPS ARE BOOMING. URDU HAS JOINED ARABIC, FARSI, AND ENGLISH AS AN IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL LANGUAGE. SOCIAL TENSIONS, WHICH MIGHT NORMALLY HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO ARISE AS A RESULT OF AN INFUSION OF "FOREIGNERS" IN THESE NUMBERS, APPEAR MINIMAL. ASIDE FROM TRADITIONAL BAHRAINI SOCIAL TOLERANCE AND EXPOSURE TO VARIOUS NATIONALITIES OVER THE CENTURIES AS A TRADING SHIPPING CENTER, IT ALSO APPEARS TO BE THE CASE THAT THE IMPORTED WORKMEC DO NOT COMPETE WITH THE INDIGENOUS BAHRAINI LABOR FORCE FOR SKILLED JOBS IN THE PETROLEUM COMPANY, THE ALUMINUM SMELTER, THE DRYDOCK AND OTHER HIGHLY-PRIZED JOBS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE AND THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR.

5. THIS EMBASSY FOUND REFAIR EXTREMELY INTERESTING AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING.
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